

Message Text

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62

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-01 PRS-01 PM-03 DODE-00 DRC-01 /052 W

----- 123584

R 100903Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3740

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3010

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, AS

SUBJ: ROK, GOA PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON AUSTRALIAN-NORTH KOREAN
RELATIONS

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HAS PASSED US AUSTRALIAN PRESS ACCOUNT OF FONMIN WILLESEE'S MAY 9 REMARKS ON AUSTRALIAN CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREA. WILLESEE WAS RESPONDING TO COMMENT MADE EARLIER TO PRESS IN SYDNEY BY ROK AMBASSADOR LO THAT SOUTH KOREANS ARE PUZZLED AND ANNOYED BY AUSTRALIAN PLAN TO RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA. ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, WILLESEE SAID THAT AUSTRALIA RESENTS AN ATTEMPT BY ANY COUNTRY THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTION SITUATION.

2. ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, AMBASSADOR BOURCHIER CALLING ON ACTING FONMIN LHO TODAY (MAY 10) TO CONVEY SEN. WILLESEE'S REMARKS. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY INFORMED US IN ADVANCE IN ANTICIPATION THAT ROKG WOULD ASK US TO INTERVENE WITH GOA REGARDING "UNFRIENDLY" COMMENTS OF ITS FONMIN.

3. DURING HIS RECENT SEOUL VISIT LO WAS INDISCREET AND CAUSTIC IN HIS COMMENTS TO AUSTRALIANS HERE. HIS UNRESTRAINED CRITICISM OF WHITLAM GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ECHOED BY OTHER MOFA OFFICIALS. AMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS HAD IN FACT INFORMALLY
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CAUTIONED MOFA OFFICIALS ON DANGER OF UNNECESSARILY IRRITATING

GOA.
HABIB

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NNN

Message Attributes

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